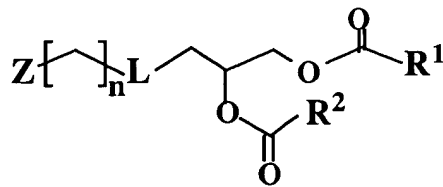


Please amend the abstract as follows:

A lipid represented by the formula:



wherein each of  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is an alkyl or alkenyl chain having between about 8 to about 24 carbon atoms;  $n = 10-20$ ; L is selected from the group consisting of (i)  $-\text{X}-(\text{C}=\text{O})-\text{Y}-\text{CH}_2-$ , (ii)  $-\text{X}-(\text{C}=\text{O})-$ , and (iii)  $-\text{X}-\text{CH}_2-$ , wherein X and Y are independently selected from oxygen, NH, and a direct bond; and Z is a weakly basic moiety that has a pK of less than about 7.4 and greater than about 4.0. is described.